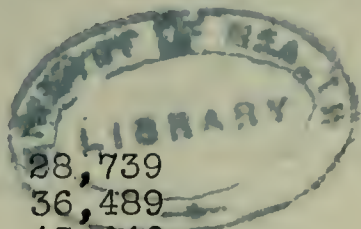


Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1946.
-----General Statistics.


Rotherham Rural District area in acres	-	28,739
Population (census) 1931	-	36,489
Population (estimated) 1946	-	43,440
Number of inhabited houses	-	11,650
Rateable value	-	£162,294
Product of a penny rate	-	£642

Vital Statistics.Population.

The estimated population of 43,440 was considerably higher than that of 1945 which was 41,820. The increase was mainly due to the return of men and women from H. M. Forces. Rotherham Corporation's new housing estate added 700 to the population of Dalton parish.

The population in the seventeen parishes in the district was as follows:

Parish.	Population.
Aston-cum-Aughton.	5,968
Bramley.	2,892
Brampton Bierlow.	3,486
Brinsworth.	2,898
Catcliffe.	1,737
Dalton.	6,308
Hooton Levitt.	78
Hooton Roberts.	170
Orgreave.	414
Ravenfield.	693
Thrybergh	3,951
Thurcroft	5,461
Treeton.	2,104
Ulley.	200
Wentworth.	1,460
Whiston.	2,371
Wickersley.	3,249
Total	43,440

Births.

The number of births registered in 1946 was 984. This was below the record number of 1,060 births in 1944, but was more than the 899 births in 1945.

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 22.7, compared with a birth rate of 19.1 for England and Wales.

The effect of the War on the birth-rate is shown in the following table :-

Year.	Number of Births.	Birth rate
1938	761	19.1
1939	845	20.8
1940	783	19.3
1941	836	20.3
1942	856	20.8
1943	849	21.9
1944	1,060	24.4
1945	899	21.5
1946	984	22.7

Illegitimate births in 1946 were again higher at 53. The still birth rate was rather higher than in previous years at 37 per thousand live births.

Deaths.

There were 434 deaths equivalent to a crude death rate of 9.9 per thousand of the population. The death rate for England and Wales over the same period was 11.5.

The death rates for the War years were: 1939 - 9.5, 1940 - 10.9, 1941 - 10.4, 1942 - 9.2, 1943 - 10.3, 1944 - 11.1, and 1945 - 10.7.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

There were 58 deaths in children under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 59 per thousand births. This is a most unsatisfactory figure and it deserves more detailed attention.

Of the 57 infant deaths 32 were due to causes such as congenital deformities, prematurity and congenital feebleness. Of the 25 other deaths 14 were due to pneumonia (mostly in the latter half of the first year), 5 were due to gastro-intestinal conditions, 3 to injuries, 1 to whooping cough, 1 to convulsions and 1 to anaemia. There is no doubt that half of these infant deaths could have been prevented with better maternal care and better home conditions.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

There were two maternal deaths in 1946. One maternal death was due to criminal abortion. In the other case an open verdict was returned at the coroner's inquest. The reputation of the district in regard to the death of women in childbirth has always been good. In 1945 one maternal death, and in 1944 no maternal deaths were recorded.

Principal Causes of Death.

The most frequent causes of death are given in the table below:-

	1946	Average of 1939 - 45.	Average of 1929 - 38.	Average of 1919 - 28.
Heart diseases.	105	77	67	31
Cancer.	56	59	45	30
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	37	37	18	-
Pneumonia.	30	25	33	50
Bronchitis.	27	29	17	34
Influenza.	6	4	12	16
Infectious diseases. X	6	10	23	32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	13	14	19	21
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	3	5	5	10
Acute & chronic nephritis.	12	8	9	8

X Scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, enteric fever, infantile diarrhoea and smallpox.

The general trend of these figures shows a reduction in deaths from the infectious diseases and tuberculosis. The pneumonia, bronchitis and influenza deaths were particularly affected by the prevalence or otherwise of influenza epidemics. The apparent increase in cancer deaths was mainly due to better methods of diagnosis and that of heart disease was due to altered systems of classification and an ageing population.

Deaths from Violence.

There were 6 road traffic accident deaths and 21 from other violent causes. Four of the road traffic deaths were of children under 10 years of age. There were 4 deaths due to colliery accidents and 3 due to other occupations, 5 were suicides and 3 occurred in the homes.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the year 1946.

	Rotherham Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census.	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Live Births	22.4	19.1 /	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still Births	0.85	0.53 /	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths: All Causes.	9.9	11.5 /	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid & Paratyphoid.	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria.	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox.	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	-	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under one year of age.	59 /	43	46	37	41
Deaths from diarrhoea & enteritis under 2 years of age.	5.0	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2

(-) Signified that there were no deaths.

(/) Per 1,000 related births.

(Z) Rates per 1,000 total population.

	Rotherham Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 1931 census.	London Adminis- trative County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
<u>Notifications:</u>					
Typhoid fever	-	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever.	-	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro- Spinal fever.	.022	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever.	1.50	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough.	4.26	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria.	0.16	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas.	0.18	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox.	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	0.29	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.92	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) (a) Notifications.					
Puerperal) Fever) Puerperal) Pyrexia)	5.28	8.50	10.35	7.63	(1.62 (9.68

7 Including Puerperal fever.

Maternal Mortality.	Rotherham Rural District.	England and Wales.
Abortion with sepsis.	1.01	0.13
Abortion without sepsis.	1.01	0.06
Puerperal infections	-	0.18
Other causes.	-	1.06

Notifiable Diseases.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever.	69	50	-
Diphtheria.	7	20 H	1
Measles.	13	-	-
Whooping Cough.	185	1	2
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	-	-
Dysentery.	3	2 H	-
Erysipelas.	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5	-	-
Pneumonia.	40	-	30
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	31	-	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	13	-	3

H Included cases sent to the Isolation Hospital for observation which were found on further examination not to be diphtheria or dysentery.

Apart from whooping cough and scarlet fever the number of notifications of infectious diseases was less than the England and Wales average. Measles was much less prevalent than in 1945, when 1,039 cases were notified. Diphtheria again showed a continuation of the persistent decline in cases, but caused one death in 1946.

From the infectious diseases point of view, the year, on the whole, was a good one.

The following table gives the age distribution of the infectious diseases notified during the year :-

Notifiable Disease.	Age in years.						
	0-1	1-5	5 - 15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over.
Scarlet Fever.	-	25	36	5	2	1	-
Diphth- eria.	-	-	5	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	9	2	1	14	10	4
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	1	1	4	2
Dysentery.	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	4	8	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	23	109	52	-	2	-	-
Cerebro- Spinal fever.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	2	3	-	-

There was a comparatively high number of cases of whooping cough in the dangerous age group under twelve months of age. The two deaths from this disease were in children of 8 and 10 months.

The parish distribution of notifiable diseases is given below :-

Parish.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Wh. Cough	Ery- sipelas.	Dys- entery.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Pneum- onia.
Aston- cum- Aughton.	13	-	2	5	-	-	-	-
Bramley	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	1
Brampton Bierlow.	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Brinsworth.	12	-	4	20	1	2	-	2
Catcliffe.	9	-	-	33	1	-	-	3
Dalton.	2	5	2	12	2	-	-	8
Hooton Levitt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooton Roberts.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Orgreave.	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	1
Ravenfield.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thrybergh.	3	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
Thurcroft.	2	-	2	22	1	-	-	15
Treeton.	4	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
Ulley.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wentworth.	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whiston.	1	-	2	48	1	1	-	3
Wickersley.	7	-	-	26	-	-	1	3

Scarlet fever.

Cases of scarlet fever have been occupying an unduly high proportion of beds in the isolation hospitals. The table below gives admissions to the two isolation hospitals from Rotherham Rural District.

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Scarlet fever.	50	82	159	175	113
Diphtheria.	20	24	36	43	51
Other diseases.	3	9	13	12	11

Clinically scarlet fever has been a mild disease and has caused no deaths in the 578 cases notified in the past five years. Nineteen cases were treated at home during 1946.

There is no objection to the ordinary mild case of scarlet fever being nursed at home provided a bedroom is available for isolation and the mother can be relied upon to give the case adequate attention.

Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Tuberculosis cases on the Register at the beginning of the year.	143	41	184
Tuberculosis cases on the Register on 31st December, 1946.	156	47	203
Tuberculosis notifications received during 1946.	31	13	44
Cases transferred to the district during 1946.	6	-	6
Total number of cases removed from the Register during 1946.	24	7	31
Deaths from Tuberculosis. (included in figures given above)	13	3	16
Cases transferred to other districts.	4	-	4

Among the 31 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified were 11 colliery workers, 4 housewives, 2 discharged soldiers, 2 clerks, 2 steelworkers and 2 conductresses.

Six of the 13 non-pulmonary cases were children with tuberculous glands in the neck.

There were 16 deaths from tuberculosis, 13 of which were of the pulmonary type. There was no preponderance of any one occupation in these 13 cases.

Two deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were in children of five years of age with tuberculous meningitis.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1946, 660 children were immunised for the first time. An additional 778 children, who had received immunisation injections four or more years before, were again given small re-inforcing doses.

A new record system was brought into operation in 1945 in which all immunisation cards were collected from the Infant Welfare Clinics and brought to the Council Offices to be grouped with the school cards according to each child's year of birth. It was hoped that by this system it would be possible to calculate the percentage number of children who had been immunised in each year group. Unfortunately the records of hundreds of children were missing. One of the main causes was the shortage of cards during the War when the names of immunised children were frequently entered in registers and misplaced. Many of the children who received a second course of treatment during the year had no cards in the file.

The table given in previous years is therefore repeated. It illustrates more accurately the progress made in diphtheria immunisation.

Year	Children immunised against diphtheria.	Number of children born during the year.	Number of cases of diphtheria.
1938	383	761	38
1939	221	845	18
1940	302	783	43
1941	2,536	836	78
1942	1,642	856	51
1943	1,824	849	43
1944	1,011	1,060	30
1945	1,157	899	25
1946	1,438	984	7

The number of children immunised in 1945 and 1946 includes children who received a second course of treatment. There were 777 of these cases in 1946.

The number of cases of diphtheria given in the table for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 are not comparable with those of previous years as they are corrected numbers. In these years cases who were admitted to hospital and found to be negative after swabbing and examination were deducted from the total number of notifications. In 1946, for example, 20 diphtheria notifications were received. After admission to hospital 13 of these cases were found to be suffering from conditions other than diphtheria.

None of the 7 children who suffered from diphtheria had been immunised.

Scabies Treatment.

The treatment centre for scabies cases at Swallownest Hospital dealt with 40 patients from Rotherham Rural District during 1946.

Patients were conveyed to the hospital by ambulance except in cases who preferred to make their own travelling arrangements, or who had short distances to travel. Patients were given baths in the discharge block, their clothing was disinfected by steam and they were given benzyl benzoate applications.

The majority of cases were mild in type and were treated by their own doctors or by the school and infant welfare clinics. The number of scabies cases reported was small compared with previous years and there is every likelihood that the disease will be practically eliminated with the improved treatment which is now available.

Children's Boot Fund.

A voluntary boot fund organised by members of the Council in 1938 was wound up at the end of the year when the County Council introduced a scheme for supplying boots and clothing under the Education Act, 1944. 1,457 pairs of boots and shoes were distributed by the fund, and £358 was raised in subscriptions, concerts and cinema shows.

District Nursing Associations.

Wickersley Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - From the end of Church Lane, Bramley to Listerdale Maternity Home and from Northfield Lane to Morthern cross-roads
- Nurse N. Asquith.
Visits paid to homes in 1946 - 2,384.

Wentworth Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Wentworth village and Harley, Hood Hill Spitalhouses, Cortworth Lane and Stump Cross.
- Nurse N. G. Edgar.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 1,660.

Swallownest Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Aston, Aughton, Swallownest, and Fence.
- Nurse F. Bullough.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 3,572.

Whiston Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Whiston, Upper Whiston and Morthern.
- Nurse L. Aaron.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 3,801.

Bramley Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Bramley village to Hellaby railway bridge, to Newhall crossroads and to Ravenfield cross roads.
- Nurse L. Hirst.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 2,619

Brinsworth Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Brinsworth parish and the Canklow district in Rotherham County Borough.
- Nurse I. Noble.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 3,122.

Dalton and Thrybergh Nursing Associations.

Area covered by Association - Thrybergh, Whinney Hill, Dalton, Dalton Parva, Dalton Magna, Sunnyside, Ravenfield, Hooton Roberts, Brecks and Herringthorpe Estate in Rotherham County Borough.
- Nurse A. D. Riley.
Visits paid to homes 1946 - 2,363.

Thurcroft Nursing Association.

Area covered by Association - Thurcroft, Carr, Brookhouse and Brampton.

- Nurse S. France.

Visits paid to homes 1946 - 2,894

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The Secretary to the Society informed me that 24 cases of neglect were investigated in Rotherham Rural District, and that one parent who was prosecuted, was sent to prison for six months.

Water Supplies.

Total number of houses in the district.....	-	11,650
Houses on the main supply.....	-	11,573
Houses on the Sheffield main supply.....	-	10,263
Houses on Wath Urban District Council Supply	-	804
Houses on Dearne Valley Water Board and Earl Fitzwilliam's Wentworth Estates Co. Supply (all from Sheffield Supply)	-	489
Houses on Doncaster Corporation Supply.....	-	4
Houses on Hooton Cliff Supply.....	-	44
Houses supplied by wells or springs.....	-	33
Houses supplied from stand pipes.....	-	13

Number of houses in the various parishes supplied from stand pipes.

Aston-cum-Aughton	-	1
Bramley.....	-	1
Hooton Levitt.....	-	8
Hooton Roberts.....	-	1
Wickersley	-	2
		<u>13</u>

Examination of Water Supplies for Lead.

Ten samples of water were sent to the County Council laboratory on 7th March, 1946 for examination for plumbo-solvency. Eight samples were from main supplies and two from a private supply. One sample showed 1/24th grain lead per gallon, two samples 1/36th grain lead and two samples less than 1/36th. grain lead per gallon. Twelve samples were sent for examination for lead on 29th August, 1946. Two of these were from a private supply. None of the samples showed a lead.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies.

Six samples of main water supplies were sent for bacteriological examination at the County Council laboratory on 6th May 1946. All were satisfactory.

Five samples were sent on 24th July 1946. Four were satisfactory and one was reported upon as doubtful.

Six samples were taken by the Sheffield Corporation Bacteriologist on 11th September 1946. All were satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Water Supplies.

Samples of Sheffield Corporation water taken at Vale Road, Thrybergh and Wath Urban District Council water taken at Knollbeck Avenue, Brampton Bierlow were sent to the Public Analyst at Sheffield on 7th May 1946.

The following report was obtained:-

	Sheffield Corpn. Main water supply.	Wath Urban District Council Supply.
<u>Physical Characters.</u>		
Suspended matter.	none.	None.
Appearance of a column 2 ft. long.	clear, yellowish.	Clear, colourless.
Taste.	normal.	normal.
Odour.	normal.	normal.
<u>Chemical examination.</u>	<u>Parts per 100,000.</u>	
Total solids dried at 180°C.	7.6	96.3
Chlorides in terms of chlorine.	1.40	16.10
Equivalent to sodium chloride.	2.29	26.54
Nitrites.	none.	None.
Nitrates as <u>nitrogen</u> .	0.04	0.01
Poisonous metals.	none.	None.
Total hardness.	3.7	53.0
Temporary hardness.	1.8	16.8
Permanent hardness.	1.9	36.2
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.116	0.023
Ammoniacial nitrogen.	0.0004	0.0002
Albuminoid nitrogen.	0.0032	0.0024
Free chlorine, parts per million.	0.06	None.
pH value.	7.0	7.2

Wath Urban District Council water is shown in this analysis to be excessively hard.

Hooton Cliff Water Supply.

Unsatisfactory reports upon the purity of this water supply were obtained on 1st April 1938, 21st June 1939, 17th August 1943, 1st April 1938, 21st June 1939, 17th August 1943, 26th July 1945 and 6th May 1946. The later samples were extremely bad.

The main cause of the unreliable quality of the water was interference by members of the public with the brick collecting chamber in Hooton Cliff wood. Clods of earth, stones and rubbish were frequently pushed between the steel door and the stonework and on one occasion the door was wrenched off its hinges. The gathering ground was open to the public. Although the bulk of the water was derived from a spring there was a certain amount of drainage by pipes from the surrounding area and pollution from the gathering ground was possible.

Complaints were received about the hardness of the water and the quantity of soap required for washing. These facts were placed before the Council who approached Doncaster Corporation for a supply of water from the Corporation's main in Hooton Roberts village.

Smoke Abatement.

Smoke observations by the staff of the Sheffield, Rotherham and District Smoke Abatement Committee, which were discontinued during the War, began again on 1st April. A summary of the work done has been sent to me by Mr. James Law :-

Observations of 30 minutes duration	- 72
Total minutes smoke observed.....	- 89
Average minutes emission for observation.....	- 1.23
Intimation notices served	- 2
Advisory visits.....	- 9
Abatement notices served.....	- 2
Complaints received	- 1

A complaint was received of nuisance caused by a burning colliery spoilbank. The company was written to and promised immediate attention.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no additions to existing works or new works constructed in any of the parishes in 1946.

Overcrowding Survey.

The overcrowding survey completed early in 1946 showed that 1,645 families were living in rooms or in lodgings in the district.

The number of houses constructed since the end of the War is given in the following table :-

Parish.	Population.	No. of houses.	Families living in rooms.	Houses built by private enterprise.	Houses built by Rotherham Rural District Council.	
					Perm.	Temp.
Aston-cum-Aughton.	5,968	1,717	237	8	-	47
Bramley.	2,892	798	68	37	-	-
Brampton Bierlow.	3,468	876	156	2	-	-
Brinsworth	2,898	811	89	11	-	-
Catcliffe.	1,737	454	92	-	-	-
Dalton.	6,308	1,524 ^H	269	-	-	-
Hooton Levitt.	78	23	1	-	-	-
Hooton Roberts,	170	46	10	-	-	-
Orgreave.	414	132	9	-	-	-
Ravenfield.	693	201	13	2	-	-
Thrybergh.	3,951	988	197	-	32	52
Thurcroft.	5,461	1,426	240	-	-	48
Treeton.	2,104	524	67	-	-	-
Ulley.	200	52	2	-	-	-
Wentworth	1,460	417	50	-	-	-
Whiston	2,371	741	51	10	-	-
Wickersley	3,249	920	95	4	-	-
Total	43,440	11,650	1,645	74	32	147

^H This number includes 220 houses built by Rotherham Corporation on the Herringthorpe Estate in Dalton Parish.

Unfit houses.

In a survey carried out at the beginning of the year, 465 houses in 13 parishes were found to be in need of demolition :-

Parish.	No. of Unfit Houses.
Aston-cum-Aughton.	139
Bramley.	13
Brampton Bierlow	128
Brinsworth.	5
Catcliffe.	21
Hooton Levitt.	14
Hooton Roberts.	6
Ravenfield.	4
Thrybergh.	2
Treeton.	6
Thurcroft.	27
Wickersley.	9
Whiston.	91
Total	465

An additional 3,583 houses were in need of major reconditioning. The state of repair of the houses in the district generally has fallen considerably in the last eight years due to lack of attention caused by the shortage of labour and materials.

Squatters' Camps.

Army Camps at Thrybergh, Bramley and Wentworth were taken over by squatters during the year and sixty-eight huts were occupied.

At Thrybergh Camp families occupied thirty-eight of the huts. The living conditions were deplorable. Water was only laid on to eleven huts. Tenants with no fixed water supply had to use water taps in an ablution shed or obtain it from neighbours. The pipes in the ablution shed were frozen for several weeks during the severe weather. Fourteen huts had water closets. The other tenants had to use two blocks of water closets near the centre of the camp and these were out of use for weeks due to frozen pipes. The doors and partitions in the water closet block were taken away piece-meal for fuel and other purposes. Chemical closets were issued for tenants in isolated huts, the electricity supply was connected up, and dust bins provided.

At Greasborough Camp, Wentworth Park twenty-nine huts were occupied. Only sixteen huts had water laid on and only four had water closets. A stand-pipe was installed and sixteen chemical closets and dustbins were supplied.

At the North Lodge site in Wentworth Park fourteen Army huts were reconditioned by the Council. Cooking ranges, water closets, sinks and electricity were installed. Partitions were built. Repairs were carried out to roofs and floors. The tenancies were given to fourteen selected families.

At Cumwell Lane Camp, Bramley one hut was occupied by two families. Two chemical closets were supplied and water in an adjoining hut was made available. The hut was wired for electricity but was not connected to the Company's mains.

Seven Nissen huts vacated by squatters at Greasborough Camp were demolished by the Council and three empty and derelict huts on the same site were dismantled to prevent other squatters taking them over.

The living conditions of these squatters were extremely bad. They were much worse than those of tenants in houses scheduled for demolition. The huts were quite unsuitable for habitation by families. The roofs and walls had poor insulation, and with their badly fitting doors and damp concrete floors they were particularly unhealthy in the winter months.

There was no means of separating the sexes. Cooking facilities were limited to the top of the small slow combustion stoves. Washing was done under primitive conditions, usually without sinks and without a fixed water supply. There was no accommodation for storing food. When the present shortage of houses is overcome these families should be moved at the earliest opportunity.

The following statistics have been supplied by Mr. J. F. Hoath,
Chief Sanitary Inspector:-

Nuisance Inspections.

Total number of inspections for nuisances in 1946...	-	1,117
Nuisances found in 1946	-	959
Nuisances in hand at the end of 1946.....	-	37
Total requiring abatement.....	-	996
Abated during 1946.....	-	951
Notices served - informal.....	-	166
Notices served - statutory.....	-	Nil
Informal notices complied with.....	-	202
Statutory notices complied with.....	-	1

Regulated buildings in the District.

Tents, vans and sheds.....	-	7
Number of inspections	-	0

Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of parishes in the district	-	17
Number of sewers and sewage disposal works.....	-	17
Number of houses in the district.....	-	11,650
Number of water closets.....	-	11,051
Number of cesspools.....	-	316
Number of covered middens.....	-	319
Number of open middens.....	-	12
Number of pail or tub closets.....	-	161

Scavenging.

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district.
90% of the refuse is disposed of by tipping and 10% to farmers.
Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse - £15,473.
Cost of emptying cesspools

- £2,450.

Milk Supply.

Number of cowkeepers in the district	-	155
Numbers registered	-	155
Number of cowsheds	-	213
Total number of milk cows	-	1,800
Number of cowshed inspections	-	289
Number of wholesale traders registered	-	115
Number of retail milk sellers registered	-	185

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. (Report from County Medical Officer)

Number of licences for the production of T.T. milk...	-	2
Number of licences for the production of 'accredited milk'	-	22
Satisfactory bacteriological samples of T.T. milk	-	4
Unsatisfactory samples	-	0
Satisfactory bacteriological samples of accredited milk	-	36
Unsatisfactory samples	-	11

Meat Inspections

Number of private slaughterhouses	-	15
Number licensed	-	15
Total inspections - meat shops and pig inspections..	-	378
Number of seizures of unsound food	-	33
Total weight	-	720 lbs

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Report from County Medical Officer)

Number of milk samples taken	-	58
Adulterated samples	-	0
Number of drug samples taken	-	5
Adulterated samples	-	0
Other food samples taken	-	7
Adulterated samples	-	2

Proceedings were taken in one instance and in another case a caution was issued.

Bakehouses.

Number of bakehouses in the district	-	8
Total inspections..	-	23

Mortuaries.

There are three mortuaries in the district at Dalton, Swallownest and Catcliffe.

Rodent Control.

A full-time Posts Officer was appointed on 10th December, 1945 to relieve the Sanitary Inspectors of the increasing amount of work required on rat control. The Council have 14 refuse tips, 22 sewage works and several miles of sewers which require the constant attention of this Officer.

Ice Cream.

Premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	-	4
Inspections made	-	14

Factories Act, 1937.

Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 enforced by Local Authorities

Number on Register	-	44
Number of Inspections	-	137
Written notices	-	3
Occupiers prosecuted	-	-

Factories not included above to which Section 7 applies.

Number on register	-	17
Number of inspections	-	11
Written notices	-	2
Occupiers prosecuted	-	-

Cases in which defects were found :-

Want of cleanliness:-

Found	-	5
Remedied	-	5
Referred by H.M. Inspector	-	1

Insufficient Sanitary conveniences:-

Found	-	1
Remedied	-	1
Referred by H.M. Inspector	-	1

Sanitary conveniences not separate
for sexes:-

Found	-	1
Remedied	-	1
Referred by H.M. Inspector	-	1

Particulars of the Health Services in Rotherham Rural District carried out by the West Riding County Council.

School Health Service.

The School Medical Inspection was done in Rotherham Rural District by Dr. J. M. Watt, the Medical Officer of Health, with the exception of the Parishes of Wentworth and Brampton Bierlow which were taken by Dr. J. E. M. White, a whole-time School Medical Inspector.

The following is a record of examinations of school children during 1946:-

	<u>Examinations.</u>	<u>Defects.</u>
Entrants.....	756	116
Intermediates	211	35
Leavers.....	200	24
Secondary	96	

Ringworm of the Scalp.

Systematic examinations for ringworm of the scalp were made in the Dalton, Thrybergh, Ravenfield, Bramley and Wickersley Schools. 1,812 children were examined in ultra violet light, and 120 were found to be infected with ringworm.

Notices were sent to the parents giving detailed descriptions of the infections and the steps to be taken in treatment. A few severe cases were referred for X-ray treatment at Sheffield Royal Infirmary.

A meeting was held with the Hairdressers' Association and information was given regarding the special hygienic measures required in infected districts. Particular attention was given to the use of sterilisers for instruments and overalls, and to the exclusion of infected children from hairdressers' shops. There was a considerable diminution in the incidence of ringworm by the end of the year.

Unsatisfactory School Buildings.

In an inspection of the school buildings in the district five schools showed major defects which were prejudicial to the health of the children in attendance.

Wickersley Church of England School, with 137 Juniors and infants on the register, showed a serious lack of repair, with deficiencies in natural lighting, cloak-room and washing accommodation, and an inadequate number of water closets.

Repeated representations were made to the School Governors. The School was handed over to the West Riding County Council in December and reconditioning was put in hand.

Ravenfield School, with 124 Juniors and infants in attendance, was served by nine pail closets emptied weekly by the Rotherham Rural District Council scavengers. Strong complaints were made by parents in the new housing estate about the pail-closet system. In this they received the support of the local council. The West Riding County Council agreed to instal water closets and to construct a sewage treatment plant in a field adjoining the school. The scheme was delayed for several months owing to difficulties in purchasing suitable land.

Hooten Roberts School, with 32 children on the roll, also had an unsatisfactory pail-closet system. This matter was repeatedly brought to the notice of the School Governors over a period of ten years without result.

Dalton Church of England School, with 60 children of all ages on the roll, showed serious deficiencies in heating, cloakroom and washing accommodation. These were aggravated by overcrowding. Reports were sent to the County Council and the School Governors and new admissions to the school were considerably restricted.

Ulley School, with five infants on the roll was the poorest building of all, with four insanitary privies, dampness, insufficient natural lighting, a coke stove for heating and oil lamps for artificial lighting. Closure of this school is long overdue.

Dental Treatment in Rotherham Rural District during 1946.

Number of children inspected	-	1364
Number of children offered treatment	-	1040
Number of children treated.	-	616
Number of attendances for treatment	-	1530
No. of Sessions - Inspection	-	14
- Treatment	-	209
No. of extractions - Temporary	-	1383
- Permanent	-	130
No. of fillings - Temporary	-	78
- Permanent	-	274
No. of other operations - Temporary	-	94
- Permanent	-	488

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The County Council is the Authority in Rotherham Rural District for the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. The following were provided under this heading:-

1. Employment of Health Visitors.
2. Provision of Maternity Home accommodation.
3. Treatment of puerperal fever cases in hospital.
4. Treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum.
5. Convalescent treatment for mothers after difficult confinement and for children up to five years of age.
6. Hospital treatment for children under five years of age.
7. Provision of child welfare centres and ante-natal clinics.
8. Payment of doctors' fees when called to the assistance of midwives.
9. Assistance towards the payment of midwives' fees in necessitous cases.
10. Provision of milk and meals in necessitous cases.
11. Provision of Consultant Obstetricians in cases of difficult confinement.
12. Ante-natal examination of uninsured women.
13. Dental treatment of expectant mothers and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age.
14. Provision of clinics for advice on birth control.
15. Provision of mid-day meals for expectant mothers who are under-nourished.
16. Provision of Home and Domestic Helps.

Nursing Areas.

Eight Health Visitors and School Nurses were working in Rotherham Rural area, as under:-

Area.	Nurse.
Aston-cum-Laughton, Swallownest, Ulloy, Orgreave and Fence.	Whole-time Nurse Miss J. Cheetham.
Hooton Roberts, Dalton, Sunnyside and Thrybergh.	Whole-time nurse Miss M. Gilliland.
Brampton Bierlow.	This parish was visited by the County Council's whole time nurse for part of Wath-on-Deerne (West Melton portion)
Wentworth.	Part-time nurse employed by the Wentworth District Nursing Association.
Thurcroft, Hooton Levitt, Carr and Laughton.	Whole-time Nurse Mrs. H. B. Stockwell.
Brinsworth.	Part time nurse employed by the Brinsworth Nursing Association.
Catcliffe, Treeton and Whiston.	Whole-time nurse Mrs. J. Utley.
Bramley, Wickersley, Ravenfield and Listerdale.	Whole-time nurse Miss B. M. Haines.

Child Welfare Centres, School and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Brampton Bierlow Cortonwood Methodist Church.	Infant consultation every Thursday 2 - 4 p.m. School Clinic every Thursday 9 a.m. Ante-natal clinic first and third Wednesday in each month, 2 - 4 p.m. Average attendances - ante-natal - 13 infants - 59
Catcliffe, Church Mission Hall.	Infant consultation every alternate Wednesday, 2-4 p.m. Ante-natal clinic second and fourth Tuesday afternoons at No. 2 Rotherham Road, Catcliffe, (adjoining the Mission Hall) School Clinic every Monday - 9 a.m. Average attendance - ante-natal - 8 infants - 60
Dalton, Primitive Methodist Chapel.	Infant consultation every Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Ante-natal clinic every Thursday afternoon. School Clinic on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Average attendances - ante-natal - 24 infants - 54

Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1936.
Rotherham Rural District.

Name of Midwife.	Address.	Remarks.
Mrs. I. Spencer.	Orchard Villas, Arundel St. Catcliffe.	Whole-time Midwife.
Nurse N. Hodgson.	5 Arlington Ave. Aston.	Whole-time Midwife.
Miss L. Hirst.	41 Park Grove, Bramley.	District Nurse.
Miss N. Asquith.	7 Green Lane, Wickersley.	District Nurse.
Mrs. D. D. Frith.	Listerdale Maternity Home.	Matron.
Miss D. Major.	Listerdale Maternity Home.	Sister.
Miss C. English.	- do -	
Miss M. Porter.	- do -	
Miss K. A. Quinn.	- do -	
Miss D. Sawtell.	- do -	
Miss M. Ripley.	- do -	
Miss M. B. Ward.	- do -	
Mrs. Gaskell.	- do -	
Mrs. S. France.	8 School Road, Thurcroft.	Whole-time Midwife.
Nurse I. Noble.	26 Brinsworth Avenue, Brinsworth.	District Nurse.
Nurse J. E. Hargreaves.	38 Brinsworth Hall Crescent, Brinsworth.	Independent.
Mrs. L. Furness.	2 Dalton View, Whinney Hill, Thrybergh.	Whole-time Midwife.
Mrs. C. King.	38 Vale Road, Thrybergh.	Whole-time Midwife.
Mrs. N. C. Edgar.	The Barrow, Wentworth.	District Nurse.
Miss W. E. Bisby.	40 Worry Goose Lane, Whiston.	Independent.
Miss L. Aaron.	8 Chaff Lane View, Whiston.	District Nurse.
Miss E. Buxton.	18 Brook Hill, Thorpe Hesley.	Independent.
Mrs. E. L. Maltby.	20 Nursery Road, Swallownest.	Whole-time midwife Resigned 31.7.46.

Maternity Home Accommodation.

During 1946, 538 patients were admitted to Listerdale Maternity Home.

The County Council established a Maternity Home of twenty beds at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, for patients from Brampton Bierlow parish and surrounding districts.

The County Council made arrangements with the Jessop Hospital for Women at Sheffield for patients who are not entitled to treatment at this hospital under the "Penny in the Pound" Scheme.

Necessitous cases were given assistance by the County Council in the payment of the fees of these institutions.

Treatment of Tuberculosis 1946.

The responsibility for the treatment of Tuberculosis in Rotherham Rural District rests with the West Riding County Council.

Dispensary Services.

The District is served by a Tuberculosis Dispensary situated at Carnson House, Moorgate, Rotherham. This Dispensary is equipped with an up-to-date X-ray plant. Clinics were held every Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and were attended by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. H. A. Crowther, and the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. E. J. C. Groves. These specialists were available by appointment for consultation with the General Practitioners in the area.

Institutional Treatment.

Institutional treatment was provided in the following County Sanatoria:-

Middleton-in-Wharfedale Sanatorium, nr. Ilkley.
Scotton Banks Sanatorium, Knaresborough.
Cardigan Sanatorium, Carr Gate, Wakefield.
Crookhill Hall Sanatorium, Conisborough.

In addition a limited number of beds were available in County Hospitals and Welfare Institutions, and other beds were rented in outside institutions.

Ancillary Services.

Ultra-violet ray treatment was provided at Rotherham Hospital.

Domiciliary open-air sleeping shelters were available for use in cases where sleeping accommodation would not otherwise have been satisfactory.

Surgical appliances were provided free of cost, without reference to family means, where such appliances were necessary for the treatment of a tuberculous condition.

Where extra nourishment was necessary to strengthen a patient's physical resistance to tuberculosis, a grant of two pints of milk daily was made. This was a priority allowance authorised by the Ministry of Food. Thirteen patients from the Rural District were receiving such grants at the close of the year.

Maintenance Allowances.

Under Memo 266 / T. Standard Maintenance Allowances were issued to those patients, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, who gave up remunerative employment to undertake a prescribed form of treatment, and who were expected to regain their working capacity. The income from other members of the family does not prejudice a patient's entitlement to this class of allowance.

Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments may be issued to meet specific commitments, where the family income is considered to be inadequate.

The scheme has done much to alleviate the financial hardship, with its accompanying mental distress, so often attending a patient obliged to give up work to undertake an extended period of treatment.

Dental Treatment.

Where the presence of carious conditions was likely to retard a patient's progress, dental treatment was provided free of charge.

West Riding Distress Fund.

On proof of need, patients were provided with the following assistance through the West Riding Distress Fund:-

- (a) Bedstead and bedding to enable a patient to sleep alone.
- (b) Payment of travel fares to enable near relatives to visit a patient in Sanatorium, where such assistance cannot be provided under Memo 266 / T.
- (c) Any other immediate requirement, not covered by the Ancillary Services Scheme.

Rotherham Rural District : Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Table showing the number of patients admitted to or discharged from institutional treatment during 1946
under the County Tuberculosis Scheme.

Institution.	Admissions			Discharges.		
	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.
Middleton-in-Wharfedale	4	-	1	3	-	-
Scotton Banks Sanatorium.	-	2	-	1	2	1
Crookhill Hall Sanatorium.	2	-	-	4	-	-
Oakwood Hall Sanatorium.	2	-	-	4	-	-
King Edward VII Hospital.	-	-	2	-	-	-
Sheffield Royal Infirmary.	-	1	-	-	1	-
Sheffield City Gen. Hospital.	-	1	-	-	1	-
County Welfare Institution, Penistone.	-	1	-	-	1	-
Sheffield Children's Hosp.	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total.	8	5	3	12	5	2

Venereal Diseases.
Treatment Centres.

Address.	Days and hours of attendance.	
	Men.	Women and Children.
Queens Road, Barnsley.	Mon. 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Thurs. 6 - 8 pm.	Mon. 5.30-7.30 pm. Wed. 2 - 3 p.m. Fri. 2 - 3 p.m.
12 Frederick St. Rotherham.	Wed. 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 5.30-8 p.m.	Tues. 2-5 p.m. Thurs. 2-5 p.m. Fri. 5.30-7.30 pm. Sat. 9.30 am. to 12.30 pm.
Jessop Hospital, Sheffield.	-	Tues. 4-6 p.m. Thurs. 4-6 p.m.
Royal Hospital, Sheffield.	Tues. 6 p.m. Thurs. 5-7 pm.	Thurs. 11 a.m.
Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.	Tues. 5-7 pm. Wed. 5-8 pm. Fri. 6-8 pm.	Tues. 2-4 p.m.

West Riding County Council.
Public Health Laboratory

Specimens received from the Rotherham Rural District
during the year
1 9 4 6.

Specimens.

Sputa for tubercle bacilli	13
Swabs for C. diphtheriae.	63
Hairs for ringworm.	19
Urine and Faeces for Typhoid.	4
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli & Organisms.	17
Bio-chemical specimens.	10
Blood films.	-
Miscellaneous.	5
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci.	1
Milks for Bacteriological examination	39
Milks for Tubercle Bacilli.	-
Waters for Bacteriological examination	17
Friedman Test.	6
Widal reactions.	-

T o t a l - 194

Rotherham Clinical Laboratory.

Arrangements were made for urgent diphtheria swabs to be examined at the County Borough Laboratory at the Municipal General Hospital. Twenty swabs from doctors in Rotherham Rural District were examined during the year.

County Ambulance Scheme.

The main ambulance depot for the district was at Parkgate where three ambulances and one car for sitting cases were stationed. There were nine drivers. A night and day service was provided.

During the year 138 patients were removed to hospitals in the Rotherham and Sheffield area, 26 cases were taken to Listerdale and other maternity homes, and 76 children were taken to Rawmarsh Clinic for examination.

Summary.

The summary in last year's Annual Report came in for some criticism because I said in it that the health of the people in the district had improved over the War years, in spite of restricted supplies of food, the shortage of clothing and footwear, the diminished supplies of coal and the difficult housing situation.

I was told that many people were much worse off for essentials such as food, clothing and shelter than they were before the War, and that there might have been a general deterioration instead of an improvement in health.

It is obvious that in the life of a complex community there must be losses as well as gains in health; and that it is necessary to weigh the one against the other when making a general assessment.

Altered economic conditions, for example, have caused one of the most profound changes in public health. Families which were on the poverty line, with the father unemployed, or dead, or where there was a large number of young children and only one wage-earner, have greatly benefited in recent years. With the rationing system and better incomes they are now much better fed and clothed. In numbers this group considerably outweighs sections of the community whose standards of living have been seriously reduced.

There has been a general deterioration in the housing of the community due to lack of house repairs, the slow rate of new building, overcrowding and the sharing of houses as a result of the increase in marriages, but the influence of poor housing of present day standards is much more than counterbalanced by the effect of better feeding.

There are many other factors which have a bearing upon the health of the community including the Health Services, but it is quite impossible to deal with them fully in this report. It is of interest, nevertheless, to give a brief account of the changes which have occurred in the different age groups of the population in the past ten years.

(a) Infants under one year of age have shown little change. This group has always been the best fed and best cared for section of the population since the establishment of the Child Welfare Service.

(b) Toddlers of one to five years of age have always formed a most unsatisfactory group. The toddler is the most troublesome individual in the community. He has to be fed, washed, clothed and given continual supervision. No mother with a new baby or a large family can give him adequate attention. In the last ten years large numbers of toddlers have been admitted to Nursery classes at 3 and 4 years of age and have benefited greatly from better supervision and regular meals in school. They have been exposed to more infectious illnesses but the account has shown considerable balance on the credit side.

(c) School children have greatly improved in health. A large increase in the provision of school meals and milk has helped. Family allowances and the supply of clothing and footwear through the schools should help still more.

(d) The information regarding juveniles and adults is not so reliable. The lives of adults and juveniles are not so standardised as those of school children, and they do not come under regular inspection. There is more uncertainty also about the food allowances of heavy manual workers.

There is no doubt that the great reduction in the number of unemployed and better allowances for families in poor circumstances has raised the standards considerably.

(e) In the older age group there have been gains as well as losses. Infirm, elderly people received less attention during the War years as large numbers of women were in employment and domestic help was limited. Elderly people able to look after themselves have benefited from more liberal allowances.

The statement in last year's Annual Report was therefore justified. The standard of health of the community has improved. Further, large improvements are still possible, but only people engaged in local government work fully realise the immense effort and expense required to obtain quite moderate advances in the health of the public.

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1st July, 1947.

